Assassination notes

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Papers link Ruby, Oswald

By EARL GOLZ

Handwritten notes and other papers that linked Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby were viewed in the Dallas County courthouse by several deputy constables shortly after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, The Dallas News has learned.

One of the deputies, Billy Preston, said he has not heard what happened to the papers after he and the late constable Robie Love personally gave them to Dist. Atty. Henry Wade in a cardboard box in late 1963 or early 1964. Love died in 1973 apparently without ever mentioning the incident to his wife.

Wade said he could not remember either Preston or Love giving him the papers.

PRESTON AND three other deputies, however, told The News they recalled seeing the box in Love's office. In addition to Preston, two others — Mike Callahan and Ben Cash — said they examined some of the box's contents along with Love. A fourth deputy at the time, Tom Stockard Jr., said he did not look inside the box.

Preston and Callahan are now the deputies of Constable Forrest Keene, who succeeded Love. Cash is a constable at Port Aransas. Stockard resigned as a deputy last June and is now opposing Keene for re-election.

Preston said he got the cardboard box from the apartment of a woman in Dallas several weeks after the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963.

"She was really scared because she had all that stuff," Preston said. "She wanted me to pick it up for her. And I just wished I had made some more copies now."

He could recall the woman only the name of "Mary" and assumed she was an associate of Oswald's because the material seemed to be written by the accused assassin.

Cash, however, said he remembered the papers as originally in the possession of the woman's roommate, who was hiding them for her Latin Americanboy friend.

"The impression I got, the papers were from the LatinAmerican because he mentioned Ruby and he mentioned Oswald in the writings," Cash said. "He didn't mention the third party but he kept referring to a third party. And the third party would have to be him."

PRESTON AND Cash said newspaper clippings from Mexico also were in the box, including some which depicted "a pistoleer down in Mexico — what we would call a bounty hunter."

They said they recalled seeing a photocopy of what appeared to be a press card with the words "Daily Worker" issued to Ruby when he lived in Chicago. Callahan, the third deputy who looked at the box's contents, said he saw "a card back then, but I can't tell you what it was."

Preston and Cash also said they saw a receipt for a motel near New Orleans dated several weeks before the assassination with Oswald's and Ruby's names on it. The receipt showed several telephone calls to numbers in Mexico City later which were found to be those of the Cuban and Russian embassies, they said.

The papers also pinpointed a landing strip somewhere in Mexico and referred to meetings of "agents" designated by numbers in the border towns of McAllen and Laredo, they said.

Callahan said he recalls seeing among the contents of the box a Dallas church brochure which had markings over the letters.

"It was deciphered out where it was mentioned about going to Cuba," Callahan said.

Other handwritten notes recounted a plan to assassinate Kennedy during "the dedication of a lake or dam in Wisconsin," Preston said.

(Law authorities in Wisconsin had speculated in December, 1963, that such a plan may have existed after they found what appeared to be Oswald's signature Sept. 16, 1963, on the registry of a restaurant in Hubertus, Wis. Kennedy had made speeches Sept. 24 at Ashland, Wis., and Duluth, Minn., as part of a national conservation tour.

(The FBI later dismissed the possibility that the signature was Oswald's. The incident, however, received little publicity outside of Wisconsin.)

"We kept quiet about all this," Cash said. "We figured it would be handled on a higher level. And when it didn't come out, we thought at that time possibly they (Warren Commission) thought that that kind of information tying it into the Cubans or Russians couldn't be released at that time because it might put us in World War III.

"BECAUSE AT that time it was a pretty hot issue, you remember. So we kept quiet and went along with the game."

In recent months, news reports about possible Oswald and Ruby contacts in Mexico or Cuba rekindled their curiosity, Cash said.

Preston said much of the handwriting was on stationery of Paramount Pictures Corp., where the woman who asked him to get the papers was employed at the time.

"He had used a lot of her letterheads that she undoubtedly had used at the office," Preston said. "He had scribbled all over them and had a lot of dates and figures. I mean, it was just page after page—several of them. And he had notes on little notebooks."

Cash remembers that the pile of papers and clippings "was quite extensive. He went into the time between the firing of the shots" at the Texas Book Depository Building.

Cash and Preston said the writings noted "another gun" at the assassination scene, but they couldn't remember other details except Cash's recollection of a ".25 caliber automatic."

Cash speculated that the writer had his girl friend keep the notes as "protection" against being "fingered" later on.

Wade said it "might well have happened" that he was given the box from Love's office, "but I know whatever they had didn't amount to nothing."

"You can see how much it would have helped us in the trial (of Ruby) if we could prove Ruby and Oswald were together," Wade said. "We never found any substantial proof that they knew each other. Everything that indicated there might be a connection was checked out more carefully than anything else by our office."

Wade's chief investigator for Ruby trial evidence, Dallas Police Lt. Jack Revill, said he "didn't even know it (the boxload of papers in Love's office) existed."